



**Louisiana Department of Health**  
**Health Plan Advisory 21-17**  
**Revised September 3, 2021**

**Changes to Durable Medical Equipment, Pediatric Day Health Care, Home Health, Rehabilitation and Personal Care Services, and Pharmacy and Other Services Requiring Prior Authorization Due to ~~Tropical Storm~~ Hurricane Ida**

On August 26, 2021, Governor John Bel Edwards declared a state of emergency ahead of ~~Tropical Storm~~ Hurricane Ida, as significant impact to the state is was expected. ~~This~~ The policy changes included in this bulletin are ~~is~~ effective August 27, 2021 and shall only be applicable for the following parishes: Ascension, Assumption, East Baton Rouge, East Feliciana, Iberia, Iberville, Jefferson, Lafourche, Livingston, Orleans, Plaquemines, Pointe Coupee, St. Bernard, St. Charles, St. Helena, St. James, St. John the Baptist, St. Martin, St. Mary, St. Tammany, Tangipahoa, Terrebonne, Washington, West Baton Rouge and West Feliciana. ~~that have instituted mandatory evacuations.~~ Managed care organizations (MCO) will be notified when this temporary policy change ends.

**Durable Medical Equipment, Pediatric Day Health Care, Home Health, Rehabilitation and Personal Care Services**

The Louisiana Department of Health (LDH) is directing all MCOs to ensure that any member who is in need of replacement durable medical equipment (DME) or supplies previously approved by the MCO may contact any durable medical equipment provider contracted with the MCO to obtain a replacement. Members shall not be required to have a new prescription and medical documentation for the replacement equipment or supplies.

Beneficiaries who were approved to receive medical equipment, supplies, home health services, pediatric day health care, rehabilitation or personal care services from a provider that is no longer in business or unable to provide the approved equipment, supplies or services may obtain the approved items or services from a new provider of their choice. The provider must be enrolled in Medicaid or contracted with an MCO. The MCO shall provide any necessary guidance to the provider on the cancelation of the original authorization and issuance of a new authorization, if applicable.

~~All other prior authorization requests shall continue to be subject to the applicable requirements to establish medical necessity.~~

## Pharmacy

LDH is directing MCOs to lift the following edits for Medicaid beneficiaries who live in the parishes referenced in this notice ~~with mandatory evacuation orders~~. ~~The~~ This edits edit should be changed from a denial to educational, or bypass within 24 hours of this notice for the affected areas and continue through September 30, 2021.

- Early refills on non-controlled medications – should be bypassed or allow a pharmacist override, except for controlled and/or specialty drugs.
- ~~Prior authorization on non-controlled medications – should be bypassed or allow a pharmacist override, except for controlled and/or specialty drugs.~~

The standard emergency override should still be made available to pharmacies.

This pharmacy policy change ~~is only applicable for residents in parishes with mandatory evacuation orders and~~ should be based on the beneficiary's home address. ~~The~~ This edits edit should NOT require a phone call to the Pharmacy Benefit Manager for override.

All existing prior authorizations for the services listed below should be extended through October 31, 2021:

- Any necessary medical and surgical procedures
- Applied Behavior Analysis (ABA)
- Home Health Services (EHH)
- EPSDT personal care services (PCS)
- Hospice Services
- Therapies (PT/OT/SLT)
- Pediatric Day Health Care
- Assertive Community Treatment (ACT)
- Multi-Systemic Therapy (MST)
- Functional Family Therapy (FFT)
- Functional Family Therapy – Child Welfare (FFT-CW)
- Homebuilders
- Pharmacy (for non- controlled, non-specialty drugs)